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U.S. Hails WTO/UNEP Cooperation Arrangement

U.S Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky applauded today's announcement by WTO Director-General Mike Moore and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Executive-Director Klaus Toepfer of a cooperative arrangement between the WTO and UNEP. Ambassador Barshefsky hailed the announcement as "an important milestone in the efforts of the international community to ensure that open trade and efforts to promote environmental protection support one another. She noted, "For some time, we have been calling for closer collaboration between these two institutions and we are gratified to see this important development occur here in Seattle."

Under this arrangement, the two organizations have pledged to take a range of actions to foster cooperation between them. This will include the sharing of information and participation in each others meetings. Of particular note is a commitment to work together on capacity building for developing countries and economies in transition in order to help build awareness of the linkages between trade, environment and sustainable development.